

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are pending. No claims are allowed.
Claim 21 is new.

1. The Applicant acknowledges that claim 17 was skipped in the originally filed claims. Therefore, originally filed claims 18 to 21 have been amended to be claims 17 to 20.

2. The Examiner indicates that claims 1 to 10 are drawing to an electrical energy storage device (Group I) and claims 11 to 20 are drawing to a method for securing a protective housing (Group II). The Examiner further indicates that restriction between the groups is appropriate because the method recited by claim 11 can be done in an alternate order, i.e., step d could be after step e. For that reason, independent claim 11 has been amended to clearly set forth that step d must come before step e. This is because a person practicing the Applicant's invention must first know the distance between the protective housing and an outer wall of the casing before they can select the appropriately sized surrounding member from the group of variously sized surrounding members. To do otherwise makes no sense.

Nonetheless, if the Examiner insists on maintaining the restriction requirement, the Applicant selects claims 1 to 10 of Group I, with traverse.

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3. Claim 21 has been added to expand the scope of protection afforded by amended independent claim 11. However, no additional claim fee is believed due as 21 claims were originally paid for with the filing fee.

An office action on the merits of the claims is requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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